

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

TheVoice

Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. Allen Zadorozny—General Manager

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for November is \$.02785/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$27.85 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase in power costs charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric bills based on the factor for the month.

FROM THE MANAGER

Looking into the Future

Most of you will have a much lower electric bill this month. Your bill should reflect the electric consumption for the month of October, which usually has temperatures that do not require much air conditioning or heating.

As you are more than quite aware, the past summer electric bills were at all-time highs for many. This fall season will bring us some relief from those high bills. Long-term relief, unfortunately, does not look likely.

Costs for fuels and operation expenditures which are related to generating plants continue to rise to unprecedented heights. These increasing costs for generating elec-

“Long-term relief, unfortunately, does not look likely.”



Allen Zadorozny

tricity eventually are born by you, the member, directly.

Government regulations and controls can play a large part in the increased costs. So it behooves us all to stay informed about proposed actions that will cause electricity to become more expensive.

Please contact me for information and questions concerning the cost of your electric service.

Insurance Coverage is Member's Responsibility

A member who has had damage or loss during a power outage occasionally contacts Caney Valley Electric inquiring if the cooperative would cover their loss.

Caney Valley Electric has no way of insuring our members from the effects of most outages which are beyond our control and will always be a part of providing electricity.

There are many causes for outages such as inclement weather, accidents, animals, trees and farm equipment just to name a few. Not only are they inconvenient and sometimes expensive, they are also extremely

expensive for your cooperative to repair. It is suggested that you check with your insurance company to verify adequate coverage for such incidents.

You can also help to prevent possible problems. Surge protection devices are available to use on electronic equipment, and back-up batteries are available for computer equipment. Standby generators are suggested for lengthy, extended outages.

We will continue to do our best to prevent outages. We thank you for helping us do a good job by calling in to report a broken pole, tree limbs and low-hanging wire.

Notice to our Rural Members

We continue to receive calls regarding amounts on the "Add" line below the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on your bills.

If you live in a county that charges sales tax, there will always be an amount on that line.

Our billing program automatically figures the sales taxes on the PCA amount, and includes it on the line below the PCA. Also, if you have miscalculated your bill from the month before and owe an additional amount (or have overpaid and have a credit), it will be included on the Add line.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions on your bill.

Rebates Available

Caney Valley Electric has rebates available on the purchase of the following new electric appliances:

- ▶ Ranges or clothes dryers to replace gas or propane, or in new construction
- ▶ Air-source or ground-source heat pumps
- ▶ Water heaters purchased to replace electric, non-electric or in new construction.

There are minimum energy requirements and size requirements on the water heaters and heat pumps, and wattage requirements on the ranges and dryers. Please contact our office for further information.

Co-op Office Closed

Happy Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day is November 11, our office will be closed to observe the holiday. Caney Valley would like to thank all veterans for their sacrifice.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Caney Valley wishes our members a happy Thanksgiving. Our offices will be closed November 25-26 in observance of the holiday.

Extension Cord Safety

Make Smart Connections

During the holiday season, families often string together extension cords without a second thought. Unfortunately, not all cords are created equal.

Just because an extension cord can reach an outlet across a room doesn't mean it's the right one for the task at hand. If a tool, appliance, or holiday display draws more current than an extension cord can carry, it may cause the cord (and whatever is connected to it) to overheat and start a fire.

Cords come in many lengths and are marked with a size or gauge. The gauge is based on the American Wire Gauge (AWG) System, in which the larger the wire, the smaller the AWG number.

For example, a 12-gauge wire would be larger and power larger wattage appliances than a 14-gauge wire. A cord, based on its gauge, can power appliances of a certain wattage only at specific distances. As the cord gets longer, the current-carrying capacity of the cord drops.

Using the right cord for the job is only the first step in using extension cords safely. Follow these tips to ensure safe use and make smart connection decisions:

- ▶ Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) symbol. The UL mark means that samples of the cord have been tested for safety hazards.



- ▶ Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors, as it could result in electric shock or trigger a fire. Extension cords that can be used outdoors will be clearly marked "Suitable for Use with Outdoor Appliances."
- ▶ Extension cords should not be placed underneath rugs or other heavy furniture; tacked in place to a wall or taped down; or used while coiled or bent. Match the length of the cord to your needs.
- ▶ Store all cords indoors when not in use. Outdoor conditions can deteriorate a cord over time.
- ▶ Unplug extension cords when not in use. The cord will continue conducting electricity until unplugged.
- ▶ On cords with more than one outlet, use the covers provided for unused openings. Children and pets face serious injury if they chew on unused outlets or stick sharp metal objects into the openings.
- ▶ Do not use extension cords that are cut or damaged. Touching even a single exposed strand of wire can result in an electric shock or burn.
- ▶ Never file or cut the plug blades or grounding pin of an extension cord or appliance to plug it into an old outlet.
- ▶ As a safety feature, extension cords and most appliances boast polarized plugs (one blade wider than the other). These special plugs are designed to prevent electric shock by properly aligning circuit conductors. If a plug does not fit, have a qualified electrician install a new outlet.

Recipes from Caney Valley's Members



Beverly Aiken

The following recipes were submitted by Beverly Aiken of Havana. We have served Beverly and her husband, Kenneth, at Aiken Acres for many years.

SUMMER SQUASH CASSEROLE

2 pounds small, yellow summer squash, sliced	3 T. flour
1 medium onion, sliced	3 T. melted butter
¼ cup water	½ t. ground black pepper
1 t. salt	2 cups grated sharp cheddar, divided
1 cup milk	¼ cup bread crumbs
2 large eggs, slightly beaten	

In saucepan, bring squash, onion, water and salt to boil. Cover pan and simmer until squash is tender, about 20 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Oil a 1 1/2-quart baking dish or coat with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.

Drain squash and onion thoroughly, then mash. Add milk, eggs, flour, 1 T. melted butter, and pepper, mixing well.

Reserve about 3 T. cheese and mix remaining cheese into squash. Transfer squash to prepared baking dish.

Bake for 30 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out almost clean.

Meanwhile, toss bread crumbs with remaining melted butter. Sprinkle over casserole, then sprinkle with reserved cheese. Return to oven for about 5 minutes or until crumbs are golden and cheese is melted. Makes 8 servings

CHICKEN AND RICE

1 can mushroom soup	¾ cup brown or white rice
1 can cream of chicken soup	Package of chicken breast or legs & thighs
1 can water	1 envelope dry onion soup
¾ cup wild rice	

A Sunday dinner favorite -bakes while you are at church. Put first five ingredients in a 9 X 13 dish and mix together. Place chicken on top and sprinkle dry soup on top of chicken. Cover with foil and bake 325 degrees for 2 ½ hours.

Stay Warm, Save Money

Cold winter days are on their way. Here are some ideas that could help you stay warm and save money this winter.

Take Advantage of Heat from the Sun—Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Cover Drafty Windows—Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

Adjust the Temperature—When you are home and awake set your thermostat as low as comfort permits. Each degree above 68 degrees adds two to three percent to the amount of energy needed to heat your home. When you are asleep or out of the house turn your thermostat back a few more degrees to save additional energy.

Find and Seal Leaks—Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes, gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Maintain Your Heating Systems—Schedule service for your heating system. Find out what maintenance is required to keep your heating system operating efficiently. For furnaces, replace your furnace filter once a month. For wood and pellet-burning heaters be sure to clean the flue vent regularly and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically.

Unplug Electronic Devices—In the average home, 75 percent of the electricity used to power electronic gifts and gadgets is used while the products are off. This phantom power use can be avoided by unplugging the items or using a power strip and turning it off when the devices are not being used.

How to Submit

To submit your recipe please send the following information:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Contact information
- ▶ Photo of yourself with the finished product (if possible)
- ▶ The recipe (clearly printed or typed)

We will continue to run recipes as long as we receive them. Send your entry to:

Caney Valley Electric
Attn: Recipes
P.O. Box 308
Cedar Vale, KS 67024
E-mail to cve@caneyvalley.com

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Insulation for Retirement BY DOUG RYE

We just had one of the hottest summers on record and we received our highest electric bill ever. However, our house was built to the Doug Rye energy standards, so the bill was far less than other houses of comparable size.

As is the case during most cold winters and hot summers, I am receiving many calls from families who are having difficulty paying their utility bills. My heart goes out to those who have to make decisions between buying food and medicine or paying the utility bill. I wish that I had a magic wand to help you, but, of course, I don't. All I can do is to continue to give energy tips that will help you.

I recently received a call from a fellow at a lending institution who listens to my weekly radio program. He said that they have a program on investments that follows my show on three radio stations. He thought that they might use some of my energy ideas in their work.

I asked several questions and learned that they also loaned money and had actually made a few energy efficiency mortgages (EEM). This really got my attention because I had worked on a plan like this many years ago. An EEM allows additional money to be loaned if the money is used to make the house meet certain energy standards. We both agreed that energy efficiency improve-

ments are great investments.

I couldn't get these thoughts out of out of my mind. I'll bet that surprises you, doesn't it? There is a really good program that follows our show on some stations called, "Planning for the Future" and is hosted by "John and Janet." They have really good ideas for planning your future. I have heard them say that one of the biggest concerns that folks have is that they will outlive their income, even though they had planned for some retirement.

Because I have been teaching that energy efficiency is a great investment for 25 years, I discussed some ideas with them. Here is the simple version of our discussion.

Would you give me \$3,000 one time if I would give you \$50 per month for the rest of your life? I want you folks to answer that question. Some of you would say that you don't have \$3,000. Others might just say "no." The rest of you would say, "maybe, tell me more."

Okay, if you kept your \$3,000 in a savings or CD account at two percent interest, you would have about \$3,656 at the end of 10 years. If I gave you \$50 per month for 10 years you would have \$6,000. You would have gotten your \$3,000 back, made \$2,344, and continued to receive \$50 each and every month.

Okay, what's the catch? Many

of you know where I'm going with this. I believe that there are millions of houses in this country that \$3,000 worth of energy improvements could save \$50 per month on the utility bill and the house would also be more comfortable.

Let me sweeten the pot for more incentive. Suppose I increase the \$50 per month figure by the same amount that utility rates increase. The *Kiplinger Letter* dated June 4, 2010, states that electric rates could increase as much as 10 percent a year in the coming years. Let's just use seven percent. If that happens in 10 years, you will have gotten your \$3,000 back, made \$4,631, and received \$92 each month thereafter. Well, you get the point, but I have one more question for you. What if you don't do anything?

In 10 years it will be too late to call me. But regardless, I will still care and worry about you. See you next month!

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.

Outages for September 2010

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred during September 2010.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
9/1	North of Cedar Vale	150	30 min	Lightning
9/11	Atlanta, Burden, Cambridge	60	3 hrs	Westar down on 1 phase
9/15	Dexter area	160	3 hrs	Westar off - storm
9/15	North of Dexter, Burden, Cambridge, Atlanta	280	60 min	Westat off - storm
9/22	East of Cedar Vale	50	35 min	Line breaker off
9/25	Peru	125	22 min	Breaker off in Peru

Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Aug 2010	Aug 2009
Meters Billed	5,531	5,514
kWh Sold	6,127,057	5,832,174
Total Revenue	\$ 829,270	\$ 770,565
Purchased Power	\$ 524,554	\$ 417,092
Operating Expenses	\$ 199,021	\$ 204,520
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 45,917	\$ 44,476
Interest Expenses	\$ 22,542	\$ 33,224
Other Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 1,900
Operating Margins	\$ 37,137	\$ 69,353
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,864	\$ 2,027
Total Margins	\$ 39,001	\$ 71,380
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 45,915	\$ 135,028